Leicester, Mass. Sept. 17, 1860.

Dear friend Webb -

I have two letters of yours to acknowledge, rec^d since I last wrote you. According to all business rules, I ought to have acknowledged the former instant, (which was rec^d aug. 6.) as it contained the Bill of Exchange (£21.8.9); but I was rather more than usually hampered at that time, (a number of friends visiting us, and my boy's studies to superintend for 6 weeks, and feeling quite good-for-nothing besides), and on the 22^d aug^t. I started off with my wife and daughter on a little journey to Canada, &c. (to try the effect of the same on my health) from which I only returned last Friday eve^g., finding here yours of July 29. - aug. 11. awaiting me, with many others, - among which is one from Eliza Wigham enclosing some money for Wm. S. Bailey of Kentucky. - What a pleasant letter indeed is yours of the 29 July, written that Sunday when you were all alone in your house in the country! We all thank you for it - it is a great pleasure to read it; and is so full of various information about yourself, the Wighams, Edmundsons, J. A. Horner, & the results of Mrs. Webb's visit to London, as to be quite valuable. - I lament your unpropitious and gloomy weather, and I see by your Standard letter of Aug. 17. that it had continued until that time; but more recent dates still have reported an improvement in the weather, at least in England. - I hope in Ireland too. We think hay fearfully dear here when it costs ~~$30.~~ $30. a ton - as it sometimes, not often, does.

The present price, here, in a farming county, is about $15; in the cities something higher of course, but not much over $20. I suppose. —

I can almost imagine you in danger from a Dublin mob for your free expression of your opinion that they would vote for Bomba for their ruler rather than for Victoria. — The extracts you give from that young Irishman's letter who had been to Rome are very remarkable, and cannot fail, I think, to attract attention. The whole letter is highly interesting. You may be sure you do your part towards holding up the "Standard", and making it a necessary element and agent in our work — I mean an agent that its subscribers & readers will feel they cannot do without.

Herewith I send you my account — an exact copy from my books — for year ending at this time. It shows a balance due you of $7.65; to which I also add 52 cents for an error in addition made by you in your last account. (Think of my accusing you of an arithmetical error!) In adding the various amounts in your account rendered for the Liberator, you make it £4.2.2. It should be exactly £4. — There are 6 times 12/6 and 5/- i.e. 80 shillings. So I credit you the 2/2, - 52 cents — and deduct it from the sum stated in my account as paid to F. Jackson, Treasurer. Accordingly I have in my hands, of yours, $8.17 —

I am glad to see by this evening's papers, just received, that the weather at last has become very fine in England — and that the prices of all

sorts of provisions are declining. I am glad of it, altho' it will unfavorably affect the market here for Breadstuffs - not unfavorably for individual consumers, but for the country at large; yet nothing but what we can well enough bear. Our Wheat and Indian Corn crops this year have been, by all accounts, immensely large, affording a very large surplus for exportation, and it seemed to be supposed, at one time, that America must feed Great Britain & France, to a large extent, for the next year. But it is distressing & dreadful to hear of the food failing in any country, and I hope it will not be the case with you.

(Sept. 18.) I have been to Canada, as I told you. We have some very dear Cousins & friends in Montreal. They, knowing that my wife and I were meditating a journey northward, sent us and my daughter a very hearty invitation to come and spend a week with them at the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales to that city, saying that, after that, they would go with us to Quebec. These were strong inducements, and, altho' it made us 2 or 3 weeks later, in setting forth, than we had intended, we did not long hesitate in accepting the offer; and on the 22d Aug., my wife, my daughter Adeline, and I left home & arrived at

Montreal, by easy stages, the next afternoon. The distance is done in a day - constantly - i.e. in about 14 or 15 hours; but we did not care to drive thro', and did not like to arrive so late in the evening - 9 to 10 o'clk. - our friends living a mile and a half from the centre of the town. So we were in that city (which now numbers about 70.000 inhabitants, I believe) when the Prince arrived and during the entire week of his stay there. I dare say you would wonder at seeing the demonstrations of loyalty and rejoicing which were poured forth on the occasion. His reception was very handsome. A costly Pavilion had been erected on one of the principal piers, where he might land, and receive Addresses, &c from the City authorities. Then a long and handsome procession was formed, in which the Prince rode in an open carriage, with several of his principal attendants, thro' the principal streets, - seven or eight handsome & ~~spacious~~ lofty arches had been erected in the way. He went directly to a large building, newly erected - a Hall of Exhibition of the Manufactures and Mechanical products of the Province. This was filled with a large and exceedingly creditable variety of goods, all of Canadian production, and also, so far as room allowed, with a large addition appropriate services took place, and the Prince declared the exhibition opened. We were present, had excellent seats, and enjoyed the occasion. Thence we drove to the new Victoria Bridge, recently erected across the St Lawrence river, and 2 miles in length. It is a wonderful & prodigious work - one of Stephenson's greatest achievements and far surpassing anything else of the kind on this Continent

The Prince & Suite came here, and with brief ceremonies laid the top-stone, &c. Here again we saw him. In the evening the whole city was illuminated, with displays of fireworks in many places. The illumination far surpassed anything I had ever seen. All public buildings, Banks, and great numbers of Warehouses, Dwellinghouses, & even the horses & sheds of the poor people were, for the most part, lighted up. A great variety of transparencies & other devices appeared on every side. The streets were thronged and packed with people; and it was a truly brilliant affair. — The next day (Sunday) was the only entirely beautiful and fair day of the whole week that we were in Montreal. The Prince attended the English Church, which was thronged. I went with my friends to the Scotch Kirk, but we again saw the Prince as he came out of Church, in plain dress. — Next morning there were Indian Games, which he witnessed (with a great crowd of others) until dispersed by the rain. At 12 that day he held a Levée, and a multitude waited upon him. I was too tired for that, and rested, that I might attend the Ball (!) in the evening given to him. This was attended by some 4000 people, in a building of vast proportions erected purposely for the occasion — the cost of this alone was said to exceed $40.000, and must have gone, I think, a good deal beyond that sum. The Prince, &c. attended and he remained until 4½ a.m. I left with two

other Ad gentlemen, soon after 12, but our ladies, who were all very enthusiastic and quite in the spirit of the occasion, stayed until past 3. On subsequent days came a Concert, a Regatta, a Military Review, visits to several places of interest, &c. &c. Some of which we attended, and others not. Let me add that the demeanor of the young Prince seemed to give universal gratification. He is modest and natural in his manners, affects no mannishness, assumes no airs, but behaves as a well-bred young man of 19 years should do. He will have a very enthusiastic and hearty reception in the United States. — But I fear I am wearying you with this long story. The Prince left on Friday, and our friends felt released from their home-post, and on Friday eve'g. we left, they with us, for Quebec. It is 180 mls. distant, but we easily accomplished the distance in 12 hours by steamboat, arriving in Q. at breakfast time. We spent 3 days there, when our friends left us, and returned home. We left Q. at the same time, taking a Steamboat down the river; 3 days & 3 nights we sailed upon the river, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and into sundry harbors & bays which make up from it into the land; and then landed at the little town of Chatham, on the Miramichi river, in the Province of New Brunswick. One half day's Stage-coach riding brought us to

Shediac, in the same province; and the next day (Saturday Sept. 8th) we came, in 3 hours of Railway riding, to St. John, the principal sea-port & busiest city of New Brunswick. - passed Sunday there, took an American steamer Monday morning down the Bay of Fundy, and came to Portland in the State of Maine; and after a day's stay there came to Boston and thence home again last Friday. This is a brief epitome of a very pleasant journey, from which I think I have derived some benefit. I feel quite sure that I am stronger, but the improvement is not very marked. I mean to be careful, keep what I have gained, and add to it, if I may. - Thus I reply to your kind inquiry as to my health, and how I am passing my leisure time. - I am sure you will be glad to know of any favorable change in my health, and I should be glad to be actively at work, at my old place in our good cause again, but I shall not attempt that at present, as it would be worse than nothing to commence, and not be able to continue. - I have recently had a short but very kind note from Mary Estlin; and, as I cannot get the time to write even a line to her by this opportunity, I will ask you (if you please) to let her see this account of our Canadian visit, &c. I should say that

my daughter went no farther than Montreal with us, but returned home from there with a Boston lady, who was, like herself, looking for a companion for the ride through.

When I read your last long letter to my wife & daughter, the latter said — "Oh, I hope we shall see him some time. How charming it would be to have him come over & ... stay with either of them, convinced, by all you said, that you are not a cheerful, lively person, of happy temperament. No one could have your (confessed) "capacity of enjoyment" — social and other — without it, I am inclined to think. "Miss May", as you call her, wishes to be ~~was~~ remembered to you, and says she has enjoyed your letter "ever so much". My wife too sends her kind regards and they both, and I too, wish to be remembered to Richard. It is just about a year, since he made us his short visit. I hope that your elder son is in better health, and that Richard will keep his firm, solid looks for an indefinite time. — What a visit, indeed, Mr. Horner made to you and at Waterford. I am sorry to hear of those unpleasant peculiarities of manner of which you speak; but something may be forgiven in that direction, if good sense, honesty, and conscientiousness are not wanting — yet the absence of the right manner a good deal impairs

the practical usefulness & efficiency of the others. I am interested, as all the Committee will be, to learn how you have distributed the books, pamphlets, &c. sent to your care; and I am sure they will wholly approve your judgment in the distribution, and feel indeed renewed & very great obligation to you for this labour (not a small one, I am sure) of love to our cause. — Miss Wigham, in a recent note speaks of receiving those sent to Edinburgh, and believes that good will be done thereby. —

I am exceedingly sorry that Dr. Cheever could not have gone to that great meeting in Edinburgh. It would seem to be, of all others, the most appropriate place & gathering possible for himself and his subject, — and just the occasion he would have liked to witness. I ..... [illegible] he reconciled to his not going. — A very good opening has been made for him by the London meetings, and I trust that time and strength will be allowed him to do thoroughly the work in England, which he is so well able to do. —

None of my English correspondents (they are not numerous) had seen Miss Mattie Griffith, at my last advices. She will not fail, I think, to see you all, in due time, but she is a delicate child

What you say of Anthony Trollope, and his books, and his reply to your note (with the "Report") interests me much. It would be well to look after him. But I think he affords an illustration of what you call one of your cant opinions", viz. that we are apt to draw large conclusions from small premises. He jumps at a general conclusion of African laziness, and indisposition to work, because he saw a large class, just emerged from Slavery, and by no means rid of its blasting effects, and to whom no adequate remuneration for work is offered, living easily, idolently, satisfied with getting what was sufficient for their own wants, and not disposed to labour for others' wealth, at merely nominal wages. Now the testimony of Bleby, and many others, thoroughly qualified to testify, from long residence, constant observation, & minute inquiry, goes to show that the blacks are willing to work, and do work industriously where fair wages are paid; and also that the quantity of such portions of the W. Indies has not fallen off, but increased, and the value of real estate increased, since freedom. I must differ with you, too, in thinking that liberty will not certainly, and in itself, elevate the black race; - if indeed I get your exact opinion. I think it is a necessary preliminary and basis to all elevation of the race that, for so many centuries, has depressed & demoralized them must not take away & leave them helpless in that degradation. Doubtless a vast work is to be done for them; but freedom is the indispensable condition, & pre-requisite, "sine quâ non" of all the rest. Back my last minute

With sincere regards to all your family.